



## City of Cincinnati

Contact: Meg Olberding, (513) 352-5358

Date: September 5, 2007

### Neighborhood Enhancement Program To Improve Northside Quality of Life

Today, the City of Cincinnati and the community of Northside announced the launch of the 90-day focused strategy addressing neighborhood quality of life issues. This model, which was launched in Price Hill and Avondale earlier this year, is designed to jumpstart longer-term neighborhood revitalization and reinvestment and to build on some of the community initiatives already in place.

"We've changed the name of the program to the Neighborhood Enhancement Program to emphasize that this is about the results we see in the neighborhood," said City Manager Milton Dohoney. "It's about all the parties coming together, rolling up their sleeves, and finding solutions to make the quality of life in Northside better."

Through focused, integrated and concentrated service delivery and community redevelopment efforts, partners in the 90-day effort hope to improve the quality of life in the areas of Northside bounded by the houses south of Chase Avenue on the west side of Hamilton and south of Pullan Avenue on the east. The target area was identified through an analysis of building code violations, vacant buildings, disorder and drug calls for Police service and drug arrests, as well as incidence of graffiti, junk autos, litter and weeds.

City staff and community organizations invite residents and community participants to the Neighborhood Enhancement Program storefront at 4200 Hamilton Avenue, on Chase Avenue between the Taylor Jamison Hair Salon and N.Y.P.D. Pizza. Hours of operation will be the first Saturday of each month from 10am to noon and each Wednesday, starting September 12 from 3 to 6pm. At other times, residents are encouraged to call the 24-hour City Customer Service number (513) 591-6000 for city service delivery.

This program will focus on developing neighborhood assets. Integrated services delivery will include:

- Concentrating building code enforcement
- Identifying and 'cooling down' crime hot spots
- Cleaning up streets, sidewalks, vacant lots
- Beautifying landscapes, streetscapes and public right of way
- Engaging property owners and residents to create and sustain a more livable neighborhood, after the first 90 days.

Measures of success are: achieving decreases in baseline "blight index" and crime statistics, completion of inspections of properties for building infractions, and serving as an overall catalyst for community re-building.

As part of the kick off ceremony, the Neighborhood Enhancement Program efforts, city and community officials unveiled the project sign for two new single-family homes under construction in the neighborhood of Northside. The City has \$120,000 invested in assisting Northside Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation to build these 2 new homes. Additionally, the Contemporary Arts Center invested more than \$7,000 for architectural renderings of the new homes in conjunction with their *HOME House* Project Exhibition of sustainable home designs. The houses are being built on the location of the former McPerry's corner store, demolished on May 17 of last year. This was a former drug hot spot in District 5.

City services team includes Police, Fire, Board of Health, Community Development & Planning, Buildings & Inspections, and Public Services.

Community partners include the Citizens on Patrol, Churches Active in Northside (CAIN), CPOP Team, Northside Community Council, Keep Cincinnati Beautiful, Northside Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation, Northside Business Association, People Working Cooperatively, Inc., The Home Ownership Center of Greater Cincinnati, Inc. and Working in Neighborhoods, Inc.

###